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**High-level segment: annual ministerial review: implementing
the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard
to gender equality and empowerment of women**

**Statement submitted by International Peace Research Association,
a non-governmental organization in consultative status with
the Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2010/100.

Statement

Towards gender-responsive and equitable climate change financing

It is an acknowledged fact that when climate change strikes, people living in poverty, 70 per cent of whom are women, are in the frontlines. Indeed, climate change exacerbates the feminization of poverty and, reciprocally, women living in poverty contribute to climate change.

In the case of rural women and girls, insecure livelihoods owing to reduced crop yields increase the burden of household chores (collecting water, food and fuel) and reduce the time available for education and income generation. This results in unsustainable coping strategies (deforestation, migration) that damage the Earth's life support systems, leading to environmental instabilities (droughts, floods) that threaten livelihoods. Thus, the cycle of violence continues, violating the rights of both women and Mother Earth.

However, women need not be victims of climate change, nor need they remain caught in the cycle of violence. They are powerful forces for change: problem solvers and leaders responsible for the basic security and well-being of their families and communities, and policy advocates capable of influencing effective, gender-responsive legislation in their local Governments. This should be acknowledged and women's knowledge and skills drawn upon in developing and implementing policy for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, including the financing of such efforts.

To this end, and to ensure that the financing of climate change is gender-responsive and equitable, we recommend the following:

Legal frameworks: In determining the allocation of climate change funding, attention should be paid to whether potential recipients have in place legal frameworks that incorporate gender concerns and ensure that the rights of women living in poverty are taken into account.

Women in decision-making: Women leaders should participate at the top level of decision-making regarding various aspects of climate change finance, for example:

- When identifying recipients of funds, advisers responsible for climate change finance should be guided by women familiar with community needs.
- In the development of a "green economy", women should be considered for leadership roles.
- To ensure the incorporation of women into the planning of technological projects, funding for the education of women and girls should ensure that they receive training in science and math.

Sharing the benefits of climate change finance: In allocating funds for climate change projects, special consideration should be given to:

- Mitigation and adaptation, geared to benefit and protect women and girls.
- Small-scale programmes, generally managed by women and aimed at achieving social and ecological benefits over the long term.

- Social sectors, such as those that ensure food security and health, where climate change is threatening human security.
- Regional groups of grass-roots women who have developed resilient responses to climate change in their communities and have sought wider collaboration.

Finally, to ensure the incorporation of gender into climate change finance, we propose the establishment of a monitoring mechanism, so that recommendations such as those listed here are adequately addressed.
